TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

HUNGARY

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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Republic of Hungary

Capital: Budapest

Population: 10,186,372 (est)

Type of government: Republic

Head of government: Pres Arpad Goncz

PM Viktor Orban

Official language(s) Hungarian

Economy: Socialist-Capitalist

Religions: Catholic (67.5%), Calvinist (2

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None. While there are no longer restrictions on travel by US citizens in Hungary, care should be taken not to loiter near or express interest in

International Airport: Budapest/Ferihegy

Flights from Frankfurt: Delta, Lufthansa, Malev

Other methods of arrival: Road/rail

U.S. Embassy address: V. 1054 Szabadsag Ter 12, Budapest Tel: 36-1-475-4400/4648 Fax 36-1-475-4484 email: usdao_buda

Transportation: Public transportation: Good.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Availability of roadside assistance: Good. For specific information concerning Hungary driver's permits, vehicle inspection, road tax and mandatory insurance, contact the Hungary National Tourist Organization offices in New York

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: For travelers to OJF zones , SFOR training, military ID card, orders, and theater clearance are required. For personnel visiting Hungary, U.S. passport, ID card, and leave orders are required. Visas are needed only for stays over 90 days. For all other official travelers and military personnel traveling to places other than OJF zones, Hungary is a designated a Special Area and requires country clearance from DoS. Theater clearance from USAREUR is also required.

Travelers are subject to normal customs checks. Declare all currency; get certificate of importation. Hungary's customs authorities encourage the use of an ATA (Admission Temporaire/Temporary Admission) Carnet for the temporary admission of professional equipment, commercial samples, and/orgoods for exhibitions and fair purposes.

Clothes, personal use items, and ordinary travel equipment may be imported duty free.

HELPFUL HINTS

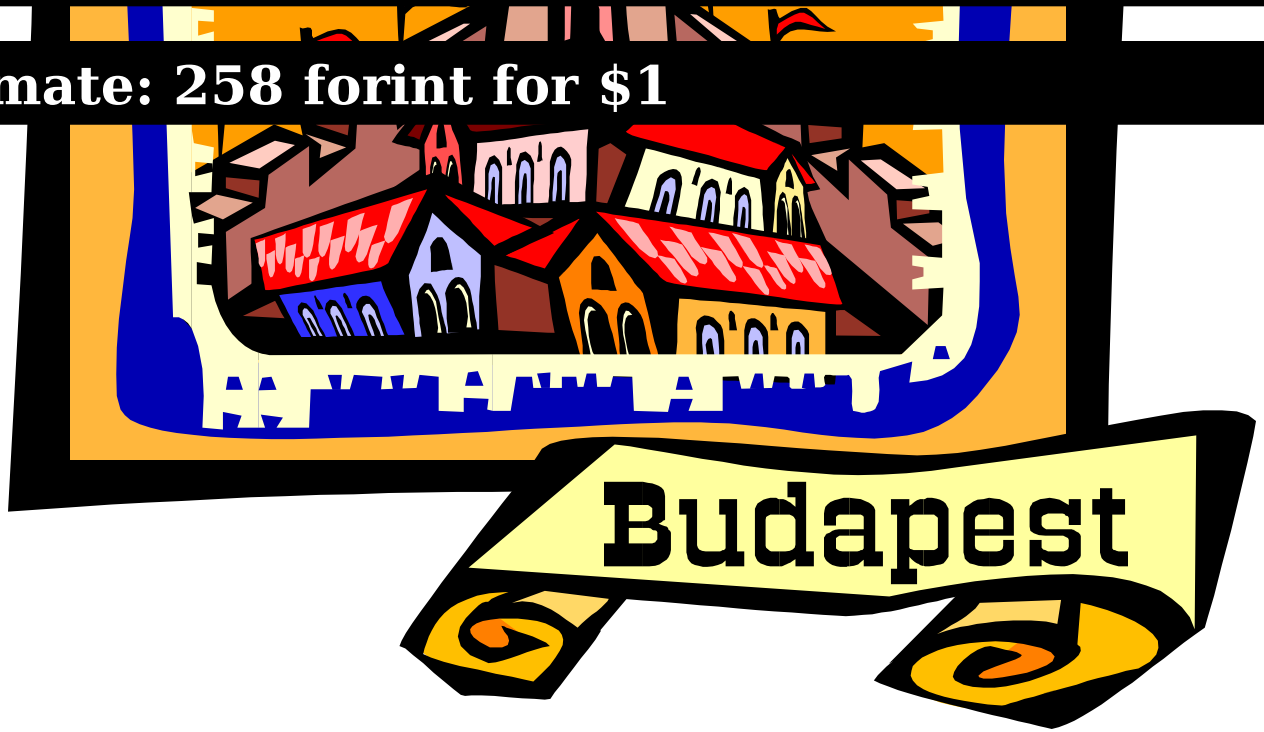
Special restrictions: Photography is permitted, except around fenced military installations.

The Amembassy observes all US and local holidays. Tourist facilities outside Budapest are not as developed as those found in Western Europe, and many of the goods and services taken for granted in other Western countries are not yet available outside the capital. If traveling by car, use only border crossing points on main roads to enter and leave Hungary. Many minor crossing points are open to nationals of Hungary and the adjacent country only.

MONEY

Currency restrictions: Local currency, Forint, is obtainable thru local banks, hotels, or money exchanges. The acceptance of travelers checks and credit cards is not universal. The presence of ATM's is increasing in Budapest and other major cities.

Rate:Approximate: 258 forint for $1



HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, industrial

Availability of medical services:Adequate to excellent medical treatment is available in Hungary, although hospital facilities and staffing are not always comparable to those in the US or Western Europe. Doctors and hospitals often expect

Medical Insurance: U.S. medical insurance is not always valid in Hungary. Uninsured travelers who require medical care overseas may face extreme difficulties.

Status of hospitals: Good

Health Precautions: None

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended).

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel visiting Hungary (non-SFOR). You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels. Clearance is not needed for visiting other parts of the country.

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer or equivalent.

The condition of Hungarian highways is, in general, relatively good. Maintenance and general road conditions in urban areas are good. However, roads in the provinces are narrow, badly lit, and in poor repair in some places. They are often used by pedestrians, agricultural machines, and animals requiring increased caution from drivers. Road travel is more dangerous during the Christmas season, the summer months, and at night. Roadside assistance, including medical and other services, is available most of the time.

CRIME

Criminal Activities:Hungary has a low rate of violent crime. However, street crime, which occasionally involves violence, has increased especially at night near major hotels and restaurants and on public transportation. Theft of passports, currency and credit cards is a frequent problem, especially in youth hostels, at train stations, and on public transportation. The loss or theft abroad of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to local police and the nearest U.S. Embassy orConsulate. Foreigners may also experience problems with excessive billing at nightclubs featuring "adult entertainment." Do not order beverage or food service without first verifying the cost. The number of burglaries has risen substantially, and vehicle thefts, particularly of high value automobiles, is a major problem. The number of highway

Hungary is strict on: Drugs/DWI. There is zero tolerance for driving under the influence of alcohol. Police often conduct routine road checks where breath analyzers are administered. Persons found to be driving while intoxicated face jail and/or

WEATHER

http://cnn.com/WEATHER/html

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions: No uniform restrictions. Persons on leave should wear civilian clothing.

Clothing suitable for Washington, DC is recommended.

This concludes the TRAVELER'S BRIEFING for

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